(b) if so, the basis of the proposed re-classification;

(c) whether the Rajasthan Government has opposed the move to re-classify their minerals ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to reconsider the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) Yes.

(d) In view of reply to (a) & (b), the question does not arise.

हिमाचल प्रदेश में धातु के भण्डार

1511. **श्री महेन्द्र सिंह लाठर :** क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) हिमाचल प्रदेश में किये गये भू-सर्वेक्षण के अंतर्गत किन-किन स्थानों पर धातु के भण्डारों का पता लगा है और उन धातुओं के नाम क्या-क्या हैं और उनका पता किस-किस तारीख को लगा;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि कुल्लु जिले (हिमाचल प्रदेश) की गडसा घाटी में तांबे के भण्डार होने के संबंध में सूचना और प्रतिवेदन प्राप्त हुआ है ;

(ग) यदि हां तो, इस दिशा में अब तक क्या कार्यवाही की गई है और इस खान में काम कब शुरू किया गया है ; और

(घ) इस कार्य पर अब तक कितनी राशि खर्च की गई है ?

खान मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बलराम सिंह यादव) : (क) भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण (जी० एस० आई०) द्वारा वर्ष 1989-90 में किए गए सर्वेक्षण से कुल्लू जिले की गडशा घाटी में तांबे के पाए जाने, 1990-91 में सिरमौर जिले के ग्रनियार ग्रम्बोटा स्थान पर सीमा-जस्ता तथा 1990 में किए गए सर्वेक्षण से कुल्लू जिले के उचित स्थान पर चांदी तथा सीसा की उपस्थिति का पता चला है ।

(ख) और (ग) प्रारंभिक अन्वेषण रिपोर्टों से गरशा घाटी में तांबा खनिजीकरण का पता चला है, जो कि 200 मीटर से अधिक अनुदैर्ध्य लम्बाई में 0.17 प्रतिशत से 2.44 प्रतिशत तांबा 0.86 से 1.95 मीटर की अलग-अलग चौड़ाई में हैं । भण्डारों का अनुमान लगाने के लिए अभी तक प्राप्त आंकड़े पर्याप्त नहीं हैं । इस क्षेत्र में और काम करने के लिए योजना बनाई गई है ।

(घ) इस अन्वेषण के अधीन प्रचालन खर्चों के रूप में अभी तक 73,531 रु० की राशि खर्च की गई है ।

Bharat Gold Mines Limited

1512. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Gold Mines Limited proposes to enter into the mines construction activity during the Eighth Five Year Plan ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any estimation of earning has been fixed by the B.G.M.L.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) Bharat. Gold Mines Limited has been undertaking mine construction activity on contract through its Projects & Contract Division since Vlth Five Year Plan onwards. The Company has also planned for an investment of Rs. 5.00 crores during VIIIth Plan as part of its diversilication activity The Company had a turnover of Rs. 38.05

crores from this activity for the period from 1987-88 to 1991-92.

(c) and (d) Bharat Gold Mines Limited has estimated an annual turnover of Rs. 23.00 crores by 1997-98.

Approval of Mining Leases/Plans in Rajasthan

1513. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the present procedure prescribed for seeking approval of Mining Leases/Plans in Rajasthan is causing considerable delay and loss of revenue to the State ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the proposed changes in the definition/scope of "Minor Minerals" would furthar complicate the income/revenue of State ; and

(c) whether Government propose to delegate the powers of approval of Mining Leases/Plans to the Directorate of Minland Geology of Rajasthan ; if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) The statutory limit within which the State Government is required to dispose of an application for a mining lease as also the period within which a mining plan is to be approved by the Indian Bureau of Mines as prescribed by Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Rules made there-under are adequate and, therefore, the question of delay and consequent loss of revenue to the State of Rajasthan on account of procedural formalities does not arise.

(b) There is no proposal to make any change in definition scope of "Minor Minerals" and hence, the question does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal to delegate the powers of approval of mining leases/plans to any State Directorate of Mines and Geology. The existing procedure for disposal of mining lease applications and approval of mining plans is considered, by and large, satisfactory.

Import of Coking Coal

@)1514. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently decided to import 6.2 million tonne coking coal;

(b) if so, what are the names of the countries from where coking coal is likely to be imported ; and

(c) what are the terms and conditions thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) After taking into consideration the demand of integrated steel plants of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) and availability of coking coal, qualitatively as well as quantitatively, from indigenous sources, it is expected that total imports of coking coal by Public Sector Steel Companies will be around 6 million tonnes during 1992-93. While the source—countries have not yet been fully identified ; this being dependant upon the comercially beneficial bids/proposals to be received from global parties, due to freight advantage most of the imports' are likely to take place from Australia.

(c) As far as terms and conditions for the import are concerned, the Public Sector Undertakings are required to finalise contracts of affreightment on "Free on Board" (FOB) basis. Detailed terms and conditions are finalised at time of issuance and finalisa-tion of the notice inviting tender and the bids received in response thereto for pur-chase/import.

©Previously Unstarred Question 408, transferred from the 30th April, 1992